Encroachment on Defence Land in Mumbai and Pune

2309. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is large scale encroachment on Defence land in Greater Mumbai and Pune Cantonment areas; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to remove the encorachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) There is encroachment on defence land in Greater Mumbai and Pune Cantonment areas.

(b) Action to remove the encroachments under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 has been taken from time to time. Strict instructions have been issued by the Service Hqrs. and DGDE to the local authorities to ensure safety of defence land against encroachments by constructing fencing, boundary walls and intensifying watch and ward. The assistance of the State Government has also been sought by the local authorities in this regard.

[Translation]

Army Cantonment in Delhi

2310. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of Army Cantonment in the National Capital Region of Delhi;

(b) whether the Ministry has formulated any scheme to properly utilise the land of cantonment area which is surplus and unutilized; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The total area of Army Cantonment in the National Capital Region of Delhi is 8563 acres.

(b) and (c). All defence land in Cantonment are utilized as per the zonal plans formulated by the Services. There is no defence land which is surplus. Vacant lands are also zoned for future use by the Services.

[English]

Development of Folk Arts and Culture

2311. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any National Policy for the development of folk arts and culture in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b). National Policy on Culture, as drafted, is under consideration of the Government.

Polio Eradication

2312. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to eradicate polio in the country;

(b) if so, the achievement recorded in this attempt;

(c) the names of the States that have hitherto reported the largest number of cases of Polio; and

(d) the details of cases recorded regarding adverse side effects of Polio vaccine during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). Pulse Polio Immunization programme has been launched in the country from 1995-96 for the eradication of poliomyelities, 8.7 crore children were given polio drops on 9.12.95 and 9.3 crore on 20.1.96. Andhra Pradesh has reported the largest number of cases upto July, 1996.

(d) Adverse side effects due to Oral Police Vaccine have not been reported during the last three years.

Location of Trade Union Organisations on Defence Lands

2313 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rules provided for allowing location of offices of Trade Union Organisations on Defence lands in Cantonment areas;

(b) whether rules prohibit location of Trade Union Organisations in the proximity of Defence installations and military establishments;

(c) whether despite such prohibitory rules, Directorate of Defence Estate, Central Command has been violating the rules and allowing Trade Unions to function in close proximity of military establishments, and

(d) if so, the fact and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). As per existing land policy, there is no provision for allotment of Defence land for locating offices of Trade Union Organisations in Cantonment.

(c) and (d). As a special dispensation, land has been allotted to Indian National Defence Workers Federation on payment of annual rent and premium in the Kanpur Cantonment.